Dr. E. Gardner Jacobs President's Greeting Centennial Convocation November 18, 1963

MRS. PETERSON, CONGRESSMAN FOGARTY,
REVEREND CLERGY, HONORED DELEGATES,
MEMBERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE,
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FACULTY,
ALUMNI, STUDENTS, and FRIENDS OF BRYANT COLLEGE:

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our Centennial Convocation. I should like at the outset to express warm gratitude for the honor you pay Bryant College by your presence on this historic day. I salute you in the fellowship of knowledge and bid you a cordial welcome to these festivities.

Just one hundred years ago, the founders opened the doors of Bryant to seventy students, many of them Civil War veterans, for what was in those days a revolutionary idea in education, "the acquisition of an education for the world of commerce."

The United States was at that time ready for a rebirth after the devastation of the "war between the states." Our great industrial growth was just ahead of us.

Bryant's first century of service thus began at a time when this country stood poised on the threshold of the greatest social and technological revolution the world has ever seen in any equal period of time.

Since those days, Bryant College has sent forth some 30,000 graduates who contributed their knowledge of business methods to the growing industrial might of our country. These men and women graduates participated in the successful growth and the development of what we now know as the spirit of free American enterprise.

Today we gather here in a reaffirmation of the inestimable value of a professional education for business. An education that is considerably different from the specialization in business techniques of Bryant's early days. Half of the present curriculum is devoted to studies in the liberal arts. Education for business administration and the teaching of business subjects is still our purpose. But, we now provide an educational program that prepares men and women for the freedom inseparable from responsibility—one that reveals to them their latent powers and provides the means for their development and use.

We are celebrating the end of our first century and the beginning of the second. This is a good time to take inventory. We have always counted among our greatest assets the spirit underlying the College and the devotion of those associated with it. We take pride in our faculty of dedicated men and women whose talents in the teaching of business and academic subjects assure young men and women a purposeful education and the kind of citizenship which prepares them to act in useful concert with others without loss of personal integrity.

We are fortunate in our fine Board of Trustees and in our College officers who guide this institution and wisely administrate this campus of more than 2000 students.

Our alumni, 11,000 strong, are among our staunchest supporters. We take deep satisfaction in the service they are rendering on all levels of executive management and in their contributions to community life. A recent survey by the Providence Chamber of Commerce revealed 5000 of them serving this business community alone.

We point with pride to the teachers of business education in the high schools of this State and many other states, who are graduates of the Business Teacher Education Department of Bryant.

Since the reputation of a college rests mainly with its students, we take particular pleasure in our student body, representing 26 states and 9 foreign countries. Their serious pursuit of a degree that assures them a life as well as a livelihood gives meaning and purpose to this campus.

And it is in their name that we address ourselves to the future. We pledge ourselves to a steady progress, to a program of studies suitable to the dynamic changing society in which we live. Our development plan for the immediate future includes the addition of two new dormitories; a new student union; the expansion of our library so that it will not only serve our College, but also

become a meaningful resource to the businessmen of our community; more classroom buildings; a larger diving hall; a more spacious auditorium. We also look forward to the establishment of a graduate school of business.

Standing here on the threshold of our second century, we face awesome responsibilities. Thus this event must inspire a rededication for the future as well as a celebration of the past.

Be this as it may, we face this future with continuing confidence and with an abiding faith in our destined rule.

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CITATION: ESTHER PETERSON (To be presented by Dr. Russell)

You come to this podium carrying with you "the credentials of your humanity" in a phrase borrowed from George Bernard Shaw. Wife and mother and dedicated public servant, you have devoted your professional life to education and the labor movement. Your career is the best illustration of the fundamental concept and spirit of the Commission's Report on "The Status of Women in America" as presented to President Kennedy last month. Your life demonstrates the thesis of this report which implies that a woman who enjoys the full bounty of this nation's freedom gives more than she receives. In giving you honor we join the nation in applause for your achievements and for your endeavors yet to come.

Bryant College is proud to confer upon you the Degree of Doctor of Science in Business Administration, Honoris Causa, with all its rights and privileges, and cause you to be invested with this hood, the insignia of this degree.

BEFORE BENEDICTION:

In closing this celebration, we extend our most hearty thanks and good wishes to all of you here present. We declare that the spirit of the day's events and of this distinguished assemblage will remain as a constant guide and inspiration to Bryant College.

The Right Reverend John Seville Higgins will offer the Benediction.

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